

25X1

#39

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

March 28, 1974

25X1

WARSAW PACT

Prospects Dim for Bloc Summit in Warsaw in July

Polish officials are now saying that Pact representation at the 30th anniversary of Communist Poland in July "might not" be at the top level. An earlier Polish claim that bloc party first secretaries would attend the Polish celebrations had sparked speculation of a possible Warsaw Pact summit meeting. The new information [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] indicates that officials are now showing more skepticism. Husak's recent stay in Warsaw and Honecker's scheduled June visit also reduce the likelihood that all Pact leaders will come to Warsaw in July. In addition, the Polish party's leading specialist on foreign affairs recently implied [REDACTED] that Brezhnev was too busy to make the rounds of the Eastern European anniversaries that fall during 1974. [REDACTED]

25X1

EAST GERMANY

Foreign Minister Winzer May be Replaced

The Vienna newspaper, Die Presse, reports from Berlin that GDR Foreign Minister Otto Winzer will be replaced in the [REDACTED]

25X1

near future. It points out that Winzer, who is 72, has not appeared in public for some time. (His last major appearance was on a trip to Belgium last November.)

The paper says that Winzer is seriously ill with diabetes, but adds that there may also be political reasons for replacing him.

There was talk when Erich Honecker took over the party leadership in 1971, that Winzer, a loyal follower of Ulbricht, might be removed, but the paper speculates that he was retained because change was undesirable at a time when the GDR was beginning to gain international recognition. In citing three likely candidates to succeed Winzer, the article names State Secretary Oskar Fischer, and State Secretary and UN representative Peter Florin, who are long-time competitors, as well as Horst Bittner, who recently ended his long tenure as GDR ambassador to the USSR.

25X1

25X1

25X1